

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 25

NEWSWEEK
28 September 1981

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PERISCOPE

Hot Tips From an Adventure Magazine

They don't like to admit it, but intelligence analysts at the CIA and the Pentagon rely on an adventure magazine published in Boulder, Colo., for some of their best information on Soviet military operations in Afghanistan. Every month the analysts comb through the pages of Soldier of Fortune for reports on machine guns, grenade launchers and other Soviet weapons that the magazine's correspondents in Afghanistan have somehow acquired. Soldier of Fortune even offers to sell captured Soviet weaponry to the highest bidder, preferably "U.S. or NATO intelligence agencies." One Pentagon official says that the ease with which Soldier of Fortune obtains Soviet arms is "a real sore point" at the CIA.